[redacted]

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MAY 15 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR: Colonel Terhune

SUBJECT: Trip Report on the Presentation of WS 117L at Headquarters USAF

1. During the week of 7 May 1956 the WS 117L Program was presented at Headquarters USAF. The team that represented the Western Development Division was made up of Colonel Norton, Commander Truax, Captain Coolbaugh and Captain Troetschel. Colonel Norton introduced the program and all the presentations and Commander Truax made the actual presentation of the program.

2. On 9 May 1956, the WS 117L Program was presented to Lt. General Donald Putt, Deputy Chief of Staff for Development. Also in attendance at this presentation were Brigadier Generals Zimmerman and McCorkle and numerous other staff officers. After the presentation of the program, which appeared to be well received by General Putt and other officers, relatively few questions were asked by the audience. Most of the group present appeared to accept the program for its purpose, and the main question that was asked by every one was how much money will be required and where can such money be obtained.

3. On 10 May 1956, the same presentation was given to Secretary of the Air Force Quarles, Acting Assistant Secretary of the Air Force Horner, Lt. General Putt and other members of the Secretary of the Air Force's Office. The program appeared to be accepted on about the same basis that General Putt and his people had accepted it the day before. And again the only question raised was how much money would be required, how soon would it be required and where could the money possibly be gotten. A decision was also made at the conclusion of this presentation to hold the presentation over for one more day and to make it on the following day to the many interested Junior Staff Officers of the Air Force and to Under Secretary of the Air Force Douglas and the Central Intelligence Agency.

4. On 11 May 1956 at 11:00, the same presentation was presented for the Junior Staff Officers of the Air Force and the only technical question that was raised of any importance was that one man in the audience believed that a 20 foot resolution would be required for the first vehicle, whereas the concensus of opinion of the people who had been associated with the program is that 100 foot resolution be available first and should be accepted first and is sufficient for the early purposes. Also the necessity for providing funding for the program was brought up and discussed only very shortly by this group. Again the overall group reaction indicated that the purpose of the program was acceptable and desired.

DOWNGRADED AT 12 YEAR
INTERVALS; NOT AUTOMATICALLY
DECLASSIFIED. DOD DIR 5200.10

WDTR 56-29

[redacted] ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MEMO TO: Colonel Terhune

5. The last presentation at Headquarters USAF was made on the afternoon of 11 May 1956 to Under Secretary of the Air Force Douglas, Acting Assistant Secretary of the Air Force Horner, Lt. General Putt, members of the Office of Defense Moblization and members of the Office of Central Intelligence Agency. At the conclusion of the presentation there was a vigorous discussion on the various technical and practical applications of the system. The Group was very enthusiastic about the opportunities that the system did offer them both in the field of Military Intelligence and in Technical Advances. General Putt also raised the question of funding again and made the point that if the program was worth while and he did think it was worth while, that money was going to have to be available from some source that was not known at this time.

6. All of the four presentations can more or less be summed up as follows: In every case the Group that heard the WS 117L presentation appeared to approve of the program and its operational capabilities. The main question in every case was how much money would be needed and in what Fiscal Years it would be needed.

R. C. TRUAX
Commander, USN
Assistant Deputy for WS 117L
Technical Operations

Conan Hartsfield
Col USAF